

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the vehicle control system comprising:

5 at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

10 a controller at the vehicle and connected to said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,

15 learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

20 causing an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned.

2. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle indicator via  
5 the vehicle data communications bus to cause the indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned.

3. A vehicle control system according to Claim 2 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at

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10. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of the at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and wherein said controller  
5 causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

11. A vehicle control system according to Claim 10 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

12. A vehicle control system according to Claim 10 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

13. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

14. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

15. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a code of at least one learned uniquely coded transmitter.

16. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one uniquely coded transmitter comprises at least one uniquely coded remote transmitter.

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17. A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one uniquely coded transmitter comprises at least one uniquely coded transponder transmitter.

18. A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus and a vehicle indicator connected thereto, the vehicle control system comprising:

5           at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

          a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

10           a controller at the vehicle and connected to said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

          learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

15           communicating with the vehicle indicator via said data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been  
20           learned.

19. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible  
5   signal generator.

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20. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel carrying the vehicle indicator.

21. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

22. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

23. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

24. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of the at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

25. A vehicle control system according to Claim 24 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

26. A vehicle control system according to Claim 24 wherein said controller causes an indication

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for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

27. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

28. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

29. A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a code of at least one learned uniquely coded transmitter.

30. A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the vehicle control system comprising:

5 a biometric characteristic sensor for sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user; and

a controller at the vehicle and connected to said biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

10 communicating with the at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

15 causing an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

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31. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to cause the indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

32. A vehicle control system according to Claim 31 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

33. A vehicle control system according to Claim 31 wherein the vehicle comprises an instrument panel carrying the vehicle indicator.

34. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

35. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

36. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein

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5 said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

37. A vehicle control system according to Claim 36 wherein the controllable vehicle device is associated with starting of a vehicle engine.

38. A vehicle control system according to Claim 36 wherein the controllable vehicle device is associated with vehicle door locks.

39. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of the at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and wherein said controller  
5 causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

40. A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

41. A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

42. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

43. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

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44. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a code of at least one learned uniquely coded transmitter.

45. A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said biometric sensor comprises at least one of a fingerprint sensor, a voice pattern sensor, a facial pattern sensor, a skin pattern sensor, a hand pattern sensor, a venous pattern sensor and a retinal pattern sensor.

46. A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the method comprising:

5 receiving signals from at least one uniquely coded transmitter at a receiver at the vehicle; and using a controller at the vehicle and connected to the receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for  
10 communicating with the at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,  
learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a  
15 vehicle function by the user, and causing an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned.

47. A method according to Claim 46 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates

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with the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data  
5 communications bus to cause the indication of whether  
at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been  
learned.

48. A method according to Claim 47 wherein  
the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a  
light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a  
speech message generator, and an audible signal  
5 generator.

49. A method according to Claim 47 wherein  
the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel  
carrying the vehicle indicator.

50. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle  
sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with  
the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications  
5 bus.

51. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle  
alarm indicator; and wherein said controller  
communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the  
5 vehicle data communications bus.

52. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a  
controllable vehicle device; and wherein said  
controller communicates with the controllable vehicle  
5 device via the vehicle data communications bus.

53. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
said controller is switchable to a learning mode to

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permit learning of the at least one uniquely coded  
transmitter; and wherein said controller causes an  
5 indication that the learning mode has been entered.

54. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
said controller causes an indication of a number of  
learned uniquely coded transmitters.

55. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
said controller causes an indication of a change in a  
number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

56. A method according to Claim 46 wherein  
said controller causes an indication of a change in a  
code of at least one learned uniquely coded  
transmitter.

57. A vehicle control method for a vehicle  
comprising a vehicle data communications bus and at  
least one vehicle device connected thereto, the method  
comprising:

5       sensing a unique biometric characteristic of  
a user from a biometric characteristic sensor; and  
      using a controller at the vehicle and  
connected to said biometric characteristic sensor and  
the vehicle data communications bus for  
10       communicating with the at least one  
vehicle device via the data communications  
bus,  
      learning the unique biometric  
characteristic to permit control of a vehicle  
15       function by the user, and  
      causing an indication of whether at  
least one new unique biometric characteristic  
has been learned.

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58. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle  
indicator; and wherein said controller communicates  
with the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data  
5 communications bus to cause the indication of whether  
at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been  
learned.

59. A method according to Claim 58 wherein  
the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a  
light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a  
speech message generator, and an audible signal  
5 generator.

60. A method according to Claim 58 wherein  
the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel  
carrying the vehicle indicator.

61. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle  
sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with  
the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications  
5 bus.

62. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle  
alarm indicator; and wherein said controller  
communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the  
5 vehicle data communications bus.

63. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
the at least one vehicle device comprises a  
controllable vehicle device; and wherein said

controller communicates with the controllable vehicle  
5 device via the vehicle data communications bus.

64. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
said controller is switchable to a learning mode to  
permit learning of the at least one uniquely coded  
transmitter; and wherein said controller causes an  
5 indication that the learning mode has been entered.

65. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
said controller causes an indication of a number of  
learned uniquely coded transmitters.

66. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
said controller causes an indication of a change in a  
number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

67. A method according to Claim 57 wherein  
said controller causes an indication of a change in a  
code of at least one learned uniquely coded  
transmitter.

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